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Testimony on S. 204 Short-Term Rental Housing
Steven Cook, Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing
February 23, 2018

Private vacation home rentals have existed in Vermont for decades. The proliferation of short-term rental platforms like Air BnB have increased the opportunity for private home owners to rent out their properties, thereby 1) expanding incomes for Vermonters; 2) expanding lodging options for visitors; and 3) increasing competition for inns, bed and breakfasts and ski resort-managed properties.

Some travelers prefer to stay in private homes. As a top tourism destination, Vermont must continue to support and embrace market innovative. The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing would like to provide relief to licensed lodging properties from regulatory burdens without impeding the evolution of the market or impacting the affordability for Vermonters. We are working with lodging properties, lodging advocacy groups, and our sister agencies, the Department of Health and the Department of Tax, to find ways to reduce redundant and unnecessary regulations.

We think short term rentals are better managed at the municipal level as the Short-term Rental Working Group recommended in its October 1, 2017 report to the Legislature (the Virginia model), not a statewide registration that involves a new registration fee. The Governor has been clear that he will not support legislation that calls for new fees or taxes. We support a self-certification process.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Cook

